

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-10 EUR-12 ARA-06 USIE-00 /085 W

----- 023976

O R 241503Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 524

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 8561

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GH AO

SUBJ: MY MEETING WITH ACHEAMPONG ON ANGOLA

1. I MET HEAD OF STATE ACHEAMHDHM AT 1130 LOCAL TIME THIS MORNING. HE WAS JOINED BY AMBASSADOR DEBRAH (SECRETARY TO SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL) AND ERIC OTOO (SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS).

2. I TOLD THE HEAD OF STATE THAT I HAD REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH COMMISSIONER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLI BUT WAS TOLD HE HAD GONE TO NORTHERN GHANA FOR THE HOLIDAYS. I FELT THE MATTER AT HAND WAS OF SUFFICIENT IMPORTANCE THAT IT SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ACHEAMPONG HIMSELF IN THE ABSENCE OF FELLI.

3. I RECOUNTED THE MEETING WITH FELLI ON DEC 22 AT WHICH TIME FELLI PRESENTED AN AIDE-MEMOIRE INDICATING THAT GHANA'S POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA WAS UNCHANGED AND ASKING THAT I REQUEST MY GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STEPS TO ENCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICA TO
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WITHDRAW FROM ANGOLA. FELLI (AND THOSE WITH HIM) MADE IT

CLEAR THAT GHANA HAD NOT CHANGED ITS POSITION WITH REGARD TO ANGOLA. OTOO CONFIRMED THAT THIS WAS INDEED THE THRUST OF THE DEC 22 MEETING. I ALSO NOTED THAT FELLI HAD SUMMONED THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR ON BEHALF OF THE EC-9 AND HAD GIVEN HIM SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME LINE. (THIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED BY THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR.)

4. I PRESENTED THE CHAIRMAN WITH A COPY OF THE SECRETARY'S REMARKS AT THE DEC 23 PRESS CONFERENCE WHICH INDICATE CLEARLY THAT AMERICAN POLICY AND THAT OF GHANA WERE, UNTIL LAST EVENING'S ANNOUNCEMENT, SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORD.

5. I ADDED THAT I COULD NOT PROTEST THE RECOGNITION OF THE OTLA AS GHANA HAS THE SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO RECOGNIZE ANYONE IT WISHES. I, HOWEVER, FOUND THE MANNER BY WHICH THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED SHOCKING. I HAD REPORTED TO MY GOVERNMENT IN GOOD FAITH AND WE WERE TRYING TO DO WHAT THE AIDE MEMOIRE ASKED US TO DO.

6. THE HEAD OF STATE SAID THAT THE MPLA DELEGATION (HEADED BY THE PREMIER) AND A NIGERIAN DELEGATION HAD CALLED ON HIM IN THE EVENING OF DEC 21. THEY PRESENTED A VERY GOOD CASE FOR THE MPLA AS THE STRONGEST AND MOST NATIONALLY BASED PARTY IN ANGOLA. WHEN I INTERJECTED THAT MUCH OF THIS STRENGTH RESULTED FROM SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT HE SAID "THE MPLA HAS CONVINCED ME THAT ANG
LA WILL NEVER GO COMMUNIST -- THEY
DON'T WANT COMMUNISM ANY MORE THAN I DO". HE REMINDED ME THAT HE HAD TOLD ME EARLIER THAT GHANA WOULD NEVER GO COMMUNIST AND THAT GHANA DID NOT WANT SEED COMMUNISM IN AFRICA. HE SAID THAT THE MPLA TOLD HIM THEY WOULD TAKE MONEY AND SUPPLIES FROM ANYONE, EVEN THE DEVIL, BUT THAT ONCE IN POWER THEY WOULD TELL THE COMMUNISTS TO LEAVE. ON THIS BASIS HE TOOK THE DECISION ON DEC 21 TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA. (IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HE INFORMED THE MPLA AT THAT TIME ALTHOUGH IT CAN BE ASSUMED HE DID SO.)

7. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE MPLA HAD ASSURED HIM THAT THEY WOULD TRY TO ACCOMMODATE FNLA AND UNITA IN A NEW GOVERNMENT.

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8. ACHEAMPONG APOLOGIZED FOR THE MANNER IN WHICH RECOGNITION WAS DECIDED UPON AND ANNOUNCED. LOOKING AT OTOO, ACHEAMPONG SAID HE WAS SORRY THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS NOT INFORMED OF HIS DECISION BEFORE THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AND I WERE SUMMONED ON DEC 22. (COMMENT: OF COURSE, ALL OF THIS DOES NOT TALLY. FELLI TOLD US ON DEC 22 THAT HE HAD MET WITH THE MPLA DELEGATION TOGETHER WITH ACHEAMPONG AND THE PRESS HAS PRINTED PICTURES TO CONFIRM THIS. FELLI MAINTAINED

THAT THE POLICY WAS UNCHANGED. POSSIBLY ACHEAMPONG MADE UP HIS MIND AND DID NOT INFORM FELLI BUT THIS SEEMS A BIT FAR FETCHED AND POSSIBLY ACHEAMPONG INFORMED THE MPLA OUT OF FELLI'S HEARING, BUT THIS TOO SEEMS FAR FETCHED.)

9. I RECEIVED NO REPEAT NO INDICATION THAT THERE WOULD BE ANY REVERSAL OF THE NEW GHANAIAI POSITION SHORT OF A MILITARY DEFEAT BY THE MPLA.

10. I THANKED ACHEAMPONG FOR RECEIVING ME AND REITERATED MY DISTRESS AT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE ISSUE WAS HANDLED. BLACK

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